



ANVVA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
1100 ON MONDAY 4th APRIL 2016, UPSTAIRS
AT THE SWAN YACHT CLUB, RIVERSIDE
RD. EAST FREMANTLE.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again I wish to thank our dedicated team of office staff and trained welfare and pension officers, advocates and the many people who simply support us in so many ways.

Some of you have possibly noticed that Buster Keating has a new face with him. Geoffrey Roberts is undergoing training as a pension officer and will be mentored by Buster.

All of our pension and welfare officers and advocates, need to ensure that they have registered for current training to make certain they are aware of legislative changes to various Acts, which have important connections to the way we deal with various cases. There are several basic level on-line courses available for those starting training or to use as refresher training. Look into our WA page at www.tip.org.au and follow the instructions to register for any course, online or at DVA.

Those who have been to the office will have noticed that we now have a new copier with sorting, folding, punching and stapling capacity, as well as printing and copying multiple dual sided documents. This is defaulted to print in black or shades of grey, but can be set for full colour if required. The reason is one of economy as being fully serviced we pay a small fee for each page and colour is dearer.

The new machine cost about half of the machine it replaces!

Please note the change and time of our meeting at the Swan Yacht Club, which is undergoing serious modifications and renovations to the premises. This is why we will be meeting upstairs as the contractors are using the Wardroom area.

ANZAC DAY will still be held at Fremantle Monday 25th April as before. We have not yet received any parking passes or timings for the parade, but we envisage that arrangement will be similar to last year, with parade step off shortly after 1000. We will again be adjourning to the Swan Yacht Club to join in their festivities and I am pretty sure a buffet lunch will be available at low cost for those attending. I will arrange wrist markers to allow our mob to have drinks as usual for supporting the Association.

Don't forget, any items of interest are always welcome and appreciated for each newsletter, please send anything to us at

anvva@inet.net.au Our webmaster Neil will also post each newsletter on the website, which is still at www.ranveteranswelfare.asn.au
Neil is also happy to include photos of interest on our web page.

Many people continue to ask me, "What is happening with the sale of Leeuwin Barracks, is it still happening?"
The short answer is yes. The sale will eventually happen. Much of the site will be redeveloped for exclusive residential housing. There is still indecision about certain areas of some historic importance which are still being reconsidered, but nothing clear has been yet stated about these.

The Medical Centre will eventually probably be relocated to Irwin Barracks, but a new properly equipped Tri-Service medical facility will need to be funded and built. This could be at least two years or more down the track.

Where will we go? There are several possibilities, the most likely being that we will move to Irwin Barracks, we have already started to provide some representation there as OBAS no longer can provide this. We have also been informed that they are prepared to provide suitable accommodation at no cost.

Another possible outcome is that some space could be provided at the Drill Hall in Leeuwin if this is retained, but would probably involve an ongoing cost and certainly further insurance requirements.

The Sea Cadets next door to SYC have indicated that they would be willing to share their premises with us, but there are also costs and insurance factors, plus we will require secure premises for our main office and file system.

Previous enquiries at the Army Museum have not been successful due to security and suitability of available rooms, some being little more than small storage rooms and totally inappropriate for conducting personal and private interviews.

I can assure you that we as your committee are considering all possibilities and also all financial implications. This will ensure that any arrangements are eventually made with full knowledge and for the best outcome for our Association and the people we want to continue to help.

Many regards to all
Trevor Robbins

The teacher was telling the kids about the birds and the bees and she explained that when a man and a woman meet and fall in love, nine months later the stork usually brings them a little baby from its nest.

Little Gemma at the back of the class put her hand up and asks the teacher,

"Are you sure about the stork, miss? I think you're getting your birds mixed up 'cos my big sister just got a little baby and she said it was from a shag in St Kilda....."

Am I A Fireman Yet??

In Queensland, Australia a 26-year-old mother stared down at her 6 year old son, who was dying of terminal leukaemia.

Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination.

Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up & fulfil all his dreams.

Now that was no longer possible.

The leukaemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dream to come true.

She took her son's hand and asked, "Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up? Did you ever dream and wish what you would do with your life?"

"Mummy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up."

Mum smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make your wish come true."

Later that day she went to her local fire Station in Brisbane, Australia where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Queensland. She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6 year old son a ride around the block on a fire engine.

Fireman Bob said, "Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary fireman for the whole day.

He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the full Monty!

And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat - not a toy -- one with the emblem of the Queensland Fire & Rescue Department on it, a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots.

They're all manufactured right here in Brisbane, so we can get them fast."

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck.

Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven.

There were three fire calls in Brisbane that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls.

He rode in the different fire engines that day. He was also videotaped for the local news program. Having his dream come true, with all the Love and attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy, that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept - that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital. Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a fireman, so she called the Fire Station and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition. The Officer in charge replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favour?

When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system, there is not a fire? It's the department coming to see one of its

finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?"

About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window 16 fire-fighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room.

With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him. With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?"

"Billy, you are, and the Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand," the O. I.C said."

With those words, Billy smiled and said, "I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and the angels have been singing."

He closed his eyes one last time.

The Lawnmower.

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the boat, the car and fishing, always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a few minutes. When I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. "When you finish cutting the grass," I said, "you might as well sweep the footpath."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.....marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right and the other is a husband.

3 Rules of Getting Older



**Never pass a bathroom,
don't waste a hard-on,
and never trust a fart**